

GUATEMALA

Fast Track Citizen Security

January-July 2023



infoSEGURA

Highlights

Criminal offences the National Civil Police registered between January and July 2023 show a rising trend in terms of the number of crime-related injuries and robberies/theft as compared to the same period the previous year, while there was a downturn in the rest of crime, including homicide.

This period, women were the most affected by robbery, theft and injuries. Of note, however, is a significant 22.5 per cent reduction in homicides of women, as compared to men who exhibit only a 4.4 per cent reduction.

Following the COVID-19 related restrictions, property crimes rose quickly and increased noticeably, even surpassing pre-pandemic levels. Robbery and theft of motorcycles, automobiles and businesses are the main crimes exhibiting an upward trend.

In the first seven months of 2023, the National Civil Police registered 1,659 victims of homicide, reporting a 7.2 per cent reduction as compared to the same period the year before, which means there were 128 fewer victims of homicide.

The department of Guatemala exhibited the greatest reduction in the number of homicides as compared to the same period in 2022, with an 80 per cent reduction attributed to this department. Nevertheless, other departments experienced increases in numbers of homicides, such as Izabal, Sololá, Alta Verapaz and Chimaltenango, where a deeper look into the causes is suggested, considering that 2023 is an election year, which could be linked to the dynamics of violence at the territorial level.

Between Jan-Jun 2023:

11,031

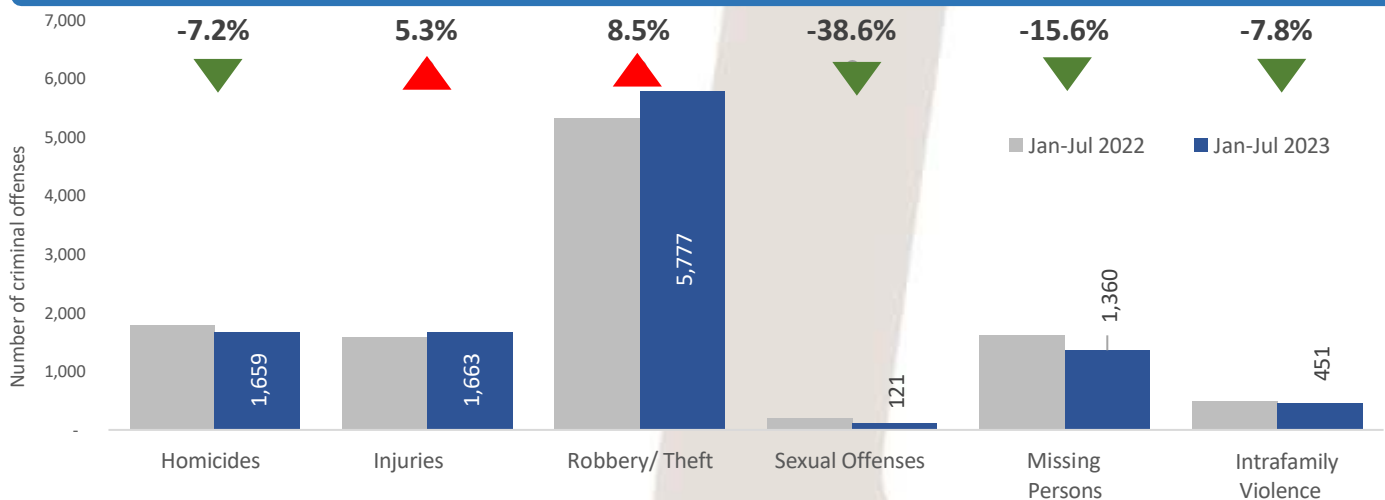
People were victims of any one of these criminal activities reported by the National Civil Police.



1,659

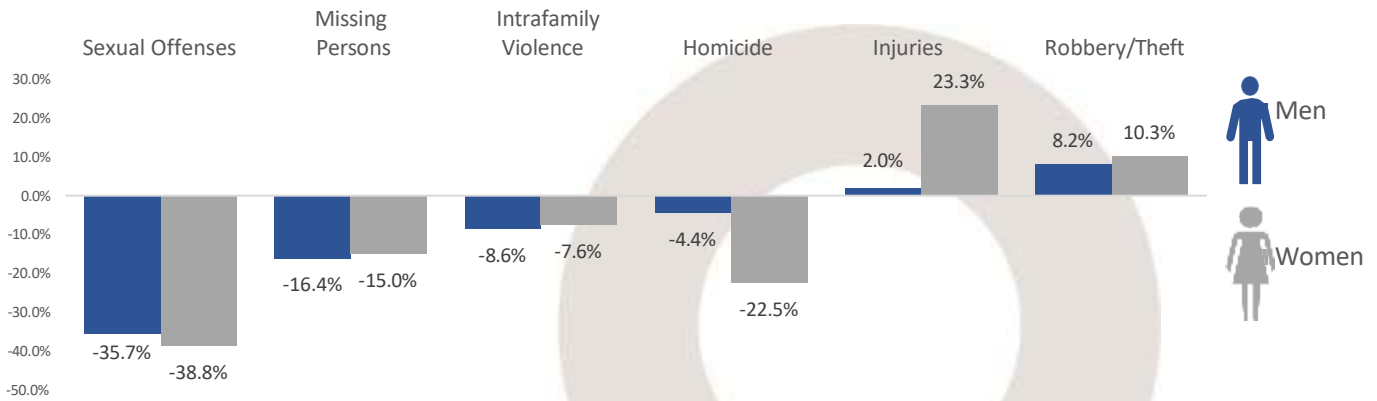
people lost their lives in homicides

Criminal Offences



As of July 2023, among the criminal offences registered by the National Civil Police, only injuries and robberies/theft experienced an upturn compared to the same period the previous year. This notwithstanding, it is heartening to point out that other crimes exhibited a reduction, of particular note is the decrease in homicides. After implementing restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, property crimes have been the quickest to resume the previous trend and have shown a remarkable and rapid rise. These crimes have even surpassed levels registered before the start of the pandemic.

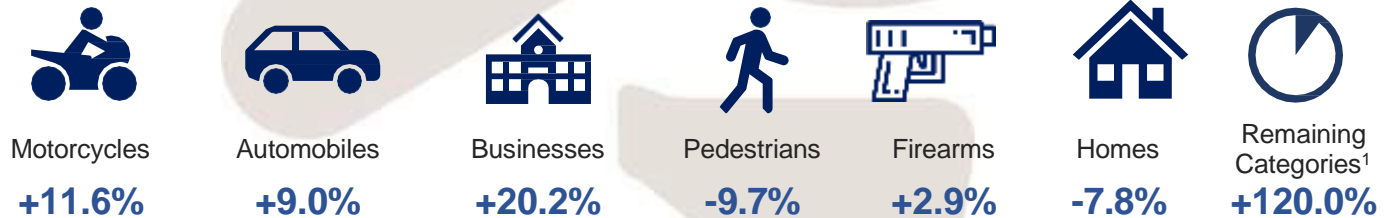
Variation in the number of crimes Jan-Jul 2023/2022



During period from January to July de 2023, there were more women victims of robbery, theft and injuries. However, in terms of homicide, there was a significant 22.5 per cent reduction in cases involving women, as compared a lower 4.4 per cent reduction in cases of men. As for other criminal offences reported, reductions in both sexes were similar.

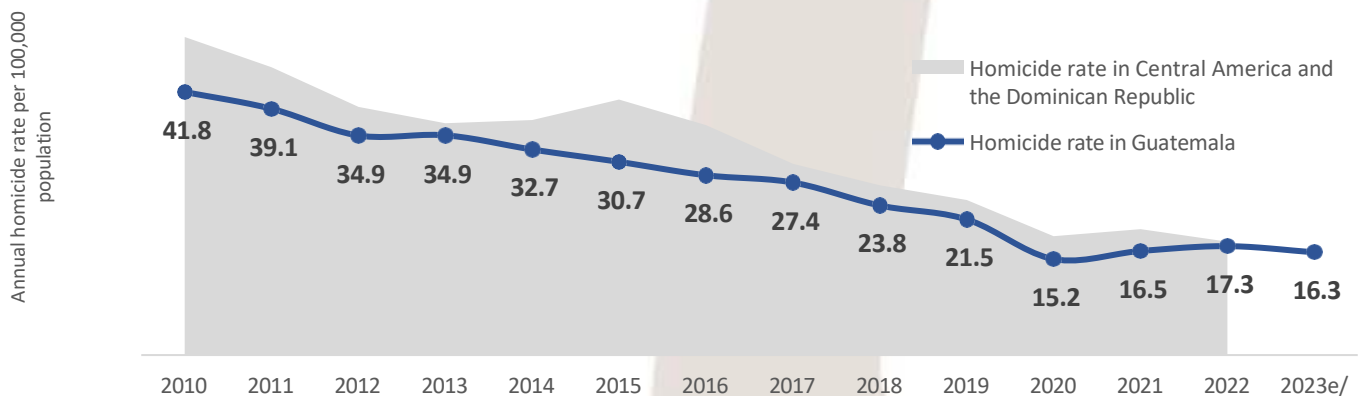
Robbery and Theft

In relation to Jan-Jul 2022:



In 2022, out of all robberies and thefts record by the National Civil Police, only those involving pedestrians and homes registered decreases. Otherwise, robbery and theft of motorcycles and other vehicles registered a joint increase of 10.8 per cent. These two indicators are the thermometer for property crime incidence, possibly reflecting a rise in victimization, as there are more reports of these crimes, according to the 2018 National Survey on Perception of Security and Victimization.

Homicides



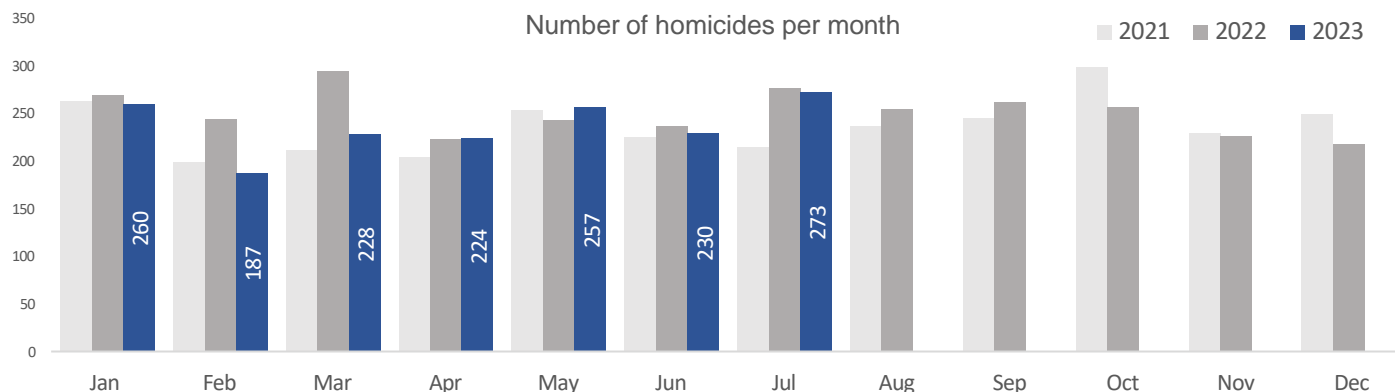
During 2010 and 2022 the homicide rate in Guatemala experienced a steady downturn. However, during the post COVID-19-pandemic years, a noticeable rise in the rate has been observed, which may be a rebound effect in response to the reduction that had been registered previously. Despite all this, it is relevant to highlight that homicide rates have not reached levels reported prior to the pandemic (2019).

¹ This category includes: Robbery and theft in banks, tourists, armoured vehicles, buses, churches.

€/The interannual rate was calculated by annualizing the data as of July 2023, the sum of the last twelve months (Sum of August 2022 through July 2023)/Estimated population for 2023

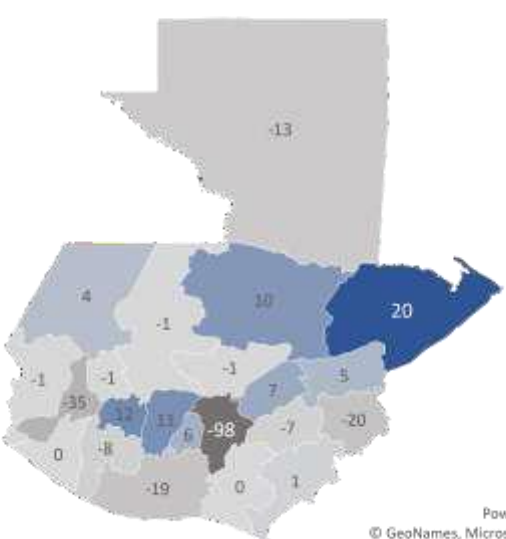
The interannual² homicide rate in Guatemala as of July 2023, closed at 16.3 homicides per 100,000 population, that is 1.0 point lower than the annual rate reported in 2022.

In 2022, the homicide rate in Guatemala was 0.7 points lower than the rate in Central America and the Dominican Republic (18.0). Nonetheless, this was the lowest difference between both rates in recent years due to the significant decline in the homicide rate in certain Central American countries, while Guatemala reported an increase compared to 2021.



During period from January a July 2023, 1,659 victims of homicide were registered in all, which represents a 7.2 per cent reduction with regard to 2022, that is 128 fewer homicides. Except for the months of April and May, monthly recorded figures in 2023 have been lower than those in 2022. The months of February and March are particularly notable, with a reduction of over 50 homicides as compared to the previous month.

Dif No. Hom ene-jul 2023/2022 -98 0 20



The department of Guatemala stands out for having reported the greatest reduction in the number of homicides, compared to the period from January to July 2022. This department accounts for 80 per cent of all reported reduction.

Contrarily, the departments of Izabal, Sololá, Alta Verapaz and Chimaltenango reported a rise in the number of homicides. It is worth noting that the departments of Sololá, Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango generally reflect low homicide rates, which underscores the importance of looking deeper into the causes of this rise.

It must be kept in mind that 2023 is an election year, which could have to do with the change in territorial dynamics of violence.

Source: 2010-2021 INE with data provided by National Civil Police. 2022 Guatemala National Civil Police (PNC)-Statistics Section, validation by INE pending Jan-Jul 2023 National Civil Police with output tables requested under freedom of information, received on August 7, 2023 by the Statistics Section at the National Civil Police.

This document has been published with the support of the Government of the United States of America, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and technical assistance of the United Nations Development Program's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDP-RBLAC). The views and opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the agencies and organizations that contributed to the production of this publication, or United Nations member states.



www.infosegura.org

² The interannual rate was calculated using data as of July 2023, the sum of the last twelve months from (sum of August 2022 through July 2023)/Estimated population for 2023